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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

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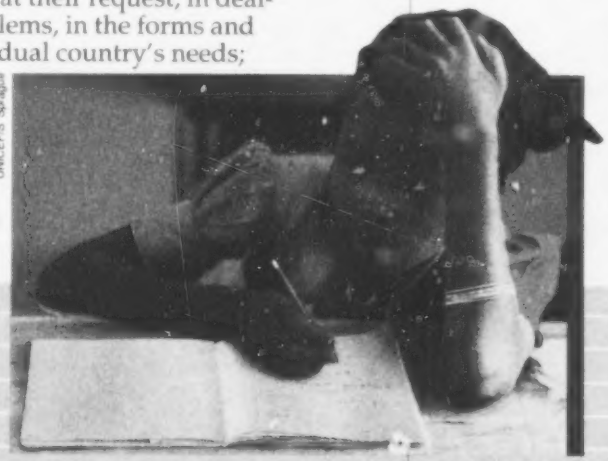
About UNFPA

UNFPA, the **United Nations Population Fund**, became operational in 1969. It is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly, with the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme as its governing body. Dr. Nafis Sadik was appointed Executive Director in 1987.

Mandate

UNFPA's mandate was laid down by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1973. It is:

- to build the knowledge and the capacity to respond to needs in population and family planning;
- to promote awareness of population problems in both developed and developing countries and possible strategies to deal with those problems;
- to assist developing countries, at their request, in dealing with their population problems, in the forms and means best suited to the individual country's needs; and
- to play a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes and to coordinate projects supported by the Fund.



UNICEF/S. Sprague

Funding

UNFPA is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, not by the United Nations regular budget. UNFPA's income in 1991 was $225 million (provisional), an increase of 5.9 per cent over the previous year. 1992 income is expected to reach $231.6 million. There were 96 donors to UNFPA in 1991, most of them developing nations. The Fund's current major donors are:

Japan
The Netherlands
Norway
Finland
Germany
Sweden
Denmark
United Kingdom
Canada
Switzerland
Italy
Australia

THE POPULATION CHALLENGE

World population, now 5.4 billion, is growing faster than ever before.

- It increases by three people every second, more than a quarter of a million every day.
- Between 90 and 100 million people will be added every year from now to the end of the century — more than the population of Mexico.
- By 2001, a billion people will have been added — a whole extra China.
- Of this growth, 95 per cent will be in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America — the countries least equipped to absorb more people.

These growing numbers put additional strains on the environment and natural resources, hold back development and reduce the quality of life for all.

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New Agenda

In November 1989, at the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, representatives from 79 nations agreed to specific population goals.

DEVELOPING NATIONS — THE DIFFERENCE

By the year 2000, five billion people will live in the developing world.

- Per capita GNP (gross national product), a measure of average wealth, is $12,560 a year in the developed world; $710 in the developing world.
- Life expectancy at birth is 74 years in the developed world; 61 years in the developing world.
- Women on average give birth to 1.9 children in the developed world; 3.9 in the developing world.

Goals for the year 2000 include:

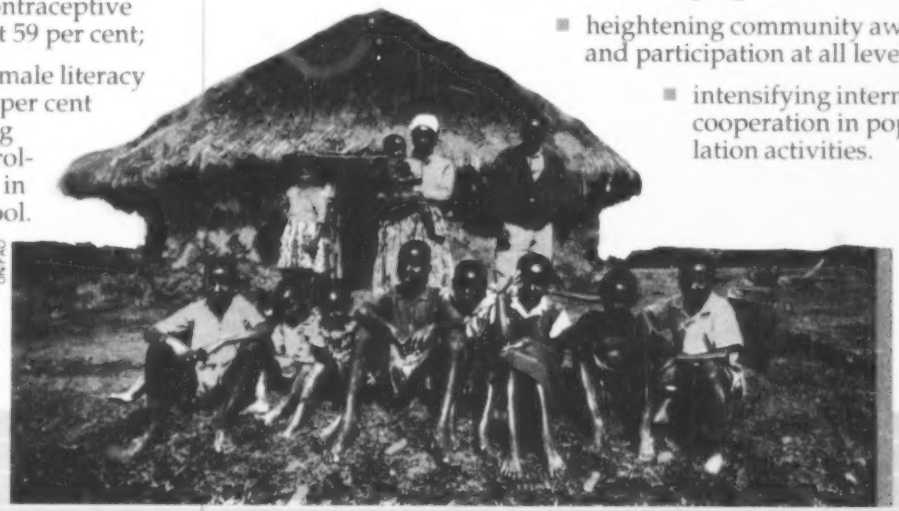
- reducing the number of children born per woman so as to reach United Nations "medium variant" population projection;
- increasing contraceptive use to at least 59 per cent;
- increasing female literacy to at least 70 per cent and achieving universal enrolment of girls in primary school.

For countries with high mortality rates:

- reducing infant mortality to, at most, 50 per 1,000 live births;
- reducing maternal mortality from all causes by 50 per cent;
- increasing life expectancy at birth to 62 years or more.

Attaining these goals depends on:

- strengthening political commitment;
- developing national population strategies and programmes;
- mobilizing resources;
- strengthening the role and status of women;
- strengthening family planning and maternal and child health programmes;
- heightening community awareness and participation at all levels; and
- intensifying international cooperation in population activities.



UN/FAO

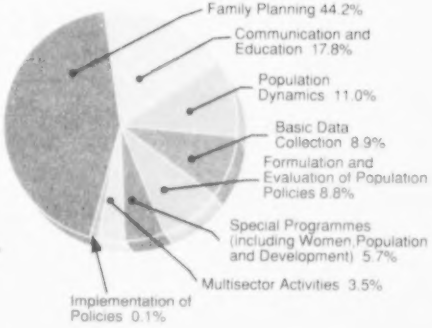
The time it has taken to add subsequent billions has become shorter and shorter.

1850 1860 1870 1880 1890

UNFPA Assistance by Sector

Nearly half of UNFPA assistance is used for maternal and child health care and family planning. Another 18 per cent is allocated for related population information, education and communication. The Fund also provides support for population data collection and analysis, research on demographic and socio-economic relationships, and population policy formulation and evaluation.

Other special programme interests include youth, aging, AIDS, and population and the environment.


Family Planning 44.2%
Communication and Education 17.8%
Population Dynamics 11.0%
Basic Data Collection 8.9%
Formulation and Evaluation of Population Policies 8.8%
Special Programmes (including Women,Population and Development) 5.7%
Multisector Activities 3.5%
Implementation of Policies 0.1%

Above: Allocations for 1991 by programme sector

UNICEF/R. Lemoyne

UNFPA Policy and Human Rights

Human rights, including the survival of national, regional and minority groups, and the freedom of couples and individuals to choose the number and spacing of their children, are specifically protected by international instruments. **UNFPA provides assistance only at the request of Governments and supports only voluntary population policies.**

In accordance with the recommendations of the global community at the 1984 International Conference on Population, abortion is not regarded as a means of family planning. **UNFPA does not provide any support for abortion or abortion-related activities.**

THE PLIGHT OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED

The population of the poorest, least developed countries is 8 per cent of the total. By 2025, this could be 12 per cent.

- In the least developed countries, per capita GNP is $230; life expectancy is 50 years; the literacy rate is low, usually less than 20 per cent; women of childbearing age give birth on average to 6.2 children.
- In any country there are "least developed" groups; they are poorer, their lives are shorter and their fertility is higher than the population at large.

WORLD POPULATION (in billions)

It took a little over a century to reach the second billion, 30 years to reach the third, and only 14 years to reach the fourth billion.

READEX FICHE

2 BILLION

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940

12 10 8 6 4 2 0

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THE RESOURCES CRUNCH

At any level of development, increased populations require more land, air and water resources, and produce more waste and pollution. Although the developed world currently does most of the environmental damage, the share from developing nations is increasing.

- The more successful developing countries are improving their standard of living, consuming more and producing more waste and pollution.
- The poorest and least developed are using up irreplaceable resources and destroying their environment, simply to enable fast-growing populations to survive.
- The number of absolute poor is now over 1 billion and growing. Nearly 770 million are chronically malnourished.
- By the year 2000, at least 37 countries will be unable to feed their populations from their own resources.
- Groundwater supplies are dwindling: rivers and lakes are fouled with pollutants from industries, municipalities and agriculture. In much of sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia, water consumption will approach the limits of available reserves in 10-15 years.
- Tropical forests are being destroyed at the rate of 11 million hectares a year, some for timber and ranchland, but most for fuelwood and shelter.
- Soil erosion from overgrazing or overcultivation causes the loss of 6 to 7 million hectares of agricultural land each year.
- The developing world already produces 45 per cent of all gases contributing to global warming. Their share is steadily increasing.
- **A way must be found to defeat poverty, to meet the aspirations of developing countries and yet protect the environment on which everything else depends.**

How UNFPA Works

The United Nations Population Fund is the largest internationally-funded source of population assistance, directly managing one-third of the world's population assistance to developing countries. UNFPA also plays a significant role as a multilateral channel through which bilateral population assistance can be directed from donors to recipient countries to support specific programmes or projects. This is known as multi-bilateral funding or multi-bi.

Priority Countries

Priority country status is given to those countries with a per capita gross national product of $750 or less and which meet any two of the following criteria:

- Annual population increment of 100,000 or more;
- Gross reproduction rate of 2 or more;
- Infant mortality rate of 120 per thousand live births or more;
- Female literacy rate of 40 per cent or less; and
- Agricultural population density of 2 or more people per hectare.

UNICEF-J Wright

In 1987, world population reached the five billion mark, only 13 years after the fourth billion was added.

There are 56 priority countries: 31 in sub-Saharan Africa, 16 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in the Arab States and 3 in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNFPA allocated 71.6 per cent of its resources to priority countries in 1991. The target is to allocate 80 per cent to those countries by 1993.

Women, Population and Development

A UNFPA strategy for women, population and development was approved by the Fund's Governing Council in 1987 with the objective of "the complete and total integration of women's concerns into all population activities and the increased participation of women in all projects supported by the Fund." Many UNFPA-supported projects seek to improve the situation of women through education, training, skill development and economic activities. UNFPA believes that women's aspirations and involvement are vital to the success of population programmes and policies.

UNU Isaac

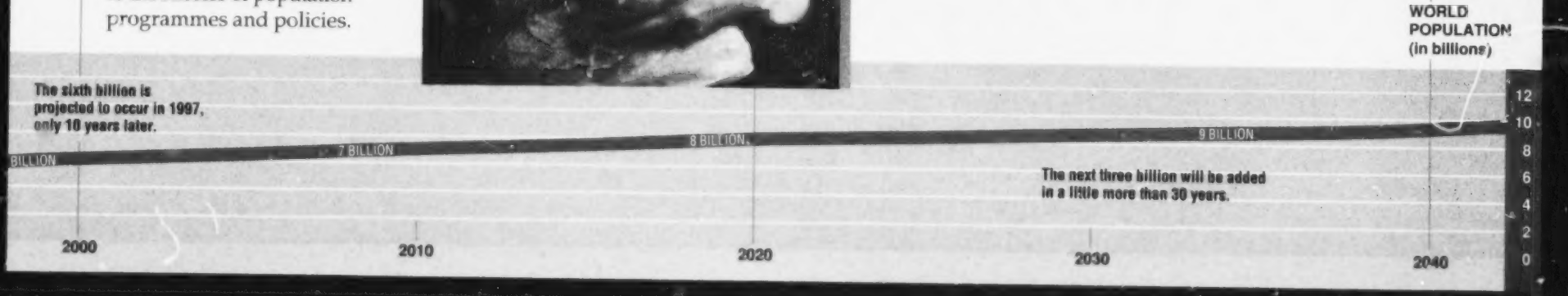
Monitoring and Evaluation

Building on 20 years' experience, in 1989 UNFPA introduced the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise to assist countries in formulating and updating their population policies and programmes. The PRSD serves as a means of analysing a country's current and future population situation. It helps to determine the goals and targets of the country's population programme, the role of national institutions in achieving those targets, the assistance requirements from UNFPA and other donors, and the role to be played by non-governmental organizations as well as local associations.

THE URBAN EXPLOSION

Degradation of rural areas and declining resources speed up migration to urban areas, where population is already increasing fast.

- By the end of the century, 41 per cent of Africa's population, 35 per cent of Asia's, and 77 per cent of Latin America's will live in cities.
- Urban areas in the developing world are growing at a rate five and a half times faster than in the developed world.
- By the year 2000, nearly half of the developing world and three-quarters of the industrialized world will be urbanized.



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MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Population growth is a global and national concern — but high fertility affects the family and community first.

- Pregnancy and childbirth kill more than half a million women worldwide every year, 99 per cent of them in the developing world.
- A woman in Africa is 200 times more likely than a European woman to die as a result of pregnancy.
- Family planning can prevent between one-quarter and one-third of all maternal deaths.
- The first child of a teenage mother is 80 per cent more likely to die than the second or third child of a woman aged 20-24 years.
- Children born less than two years after their older brother or sister are 66 per cent more likely to die in infancy.
- Worldwide, one pregnancy in five is unwanted. In some countries, the proportion is even higher.

Every year, millions of children's lives could be saved by preventing unwanted pregnancies and pregnancies which occur too early, too late or too close together.

UN/ P. Lister

All UNFPA-funded projects are monitored through annual progress reports, tripartite project reviews involving UNFPA, Governments and executing agencies, and mid-cycle reviews conducted half-way through a programme period. In addition, UNFPA uses outside experts to conduct independent, in-depth evaluations. These evaluations serve two purposes: they ensure accountability to those who provide UNFPA's resources and they assist in improving programmes and projects.

Results of evaluations are regularly published by UNFPA and disseminated to Governments, project staff and others interested in the Fund's activities. In addition, UNFPA maintains a lessons-learned database which stores and updates specific evaluation findings.

UN/C. Redpath

10 BILLION

The year 2050 will likely mark the arrival of the Earth's ten billionth person.

11 BILLION

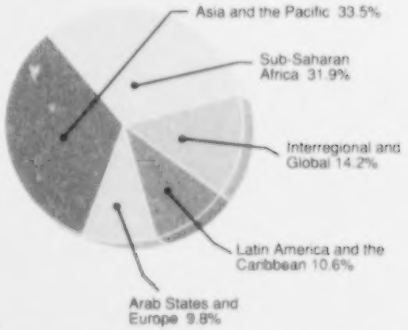
The eleventh billion will be reached in the year 2087.

2050 2060 2070 2080 2090

UNFPA Assistance by Geographic Region

In 1991, UNFPA provided support to 136 countries, including 44 in sub-Saharan Africa, 37 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 32 in Asia and the Pacific, 14 in the Arab States and 9 in Europe.

1991 allocations by geographic region were as follows:

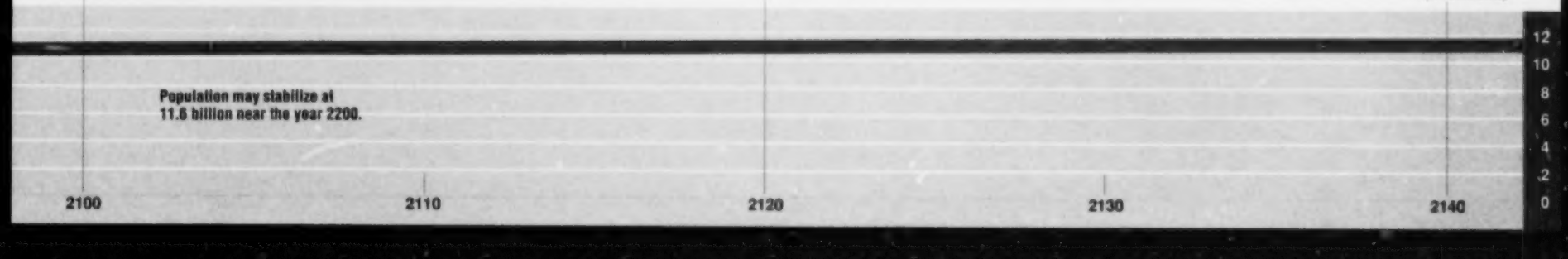

Asia and the Pacific 33.5%
Sub-Saharan Africa 31.9%
Interregional and Global 14.2%
Latin America and the Caribbean 10.6%
Arab States and Europe 9.8%

Countries in **Asia and the Pacific** receive about a third of all UNFPA assistance, with family planning and population education the main priorities of their population policies. Asia contains six of the world's ten most populous countries. Rapid urbanization and high adult illiteracy, especially among women, still pose severe problems, as do high growth rates, particularly in South Asia. Yet Asian countries have also been among the most successful in reducing rapid population growth.

CHOICE OR CHANCE?

The cost of meeting international targets in fertility and family planning will double in the next ten years — but the costs of missing them will be far higher.

- The target is to increase the number of couples in developing countries using modern, voluntary family planning methods from 381 million in 1990 to 567 million by the end of the century, an increase of about 50 per cent.
- Reaching this target will raise the proportion of women of reproductive age in developing countries using modern contraceptive methods from 51 per cent to 59 per cent.
- Providing these services will increase the cost of population programmes from $4.5 billion in 1991 to $9 billion annually by the year 2000.
- The bulk of resources for population programmes come from the developing countries themselves.
- Total international population assistance amounts to $756 million per year. International assistance will have to rise to $4.5 billion (including $1 billion from UNFPA) plus an additional $3.5 billion from Governments in developing countries and $1 billion from users.
- The targets are based on the United Nations "medium" or "most likely" projection for future population growth. Just keeping on track implies that world population will rise from 5.4 billion in mid-1991 to 6.4 billion in 2001 and 8.5 billion in 2025.



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Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for some of the highest birth rates in the world and includes more than half of UNFPA's priority countries. Forty-two countries now provide public sector support for family planning programmes, and six more provide indirect support. Virtually every country in Africa has received UNFPA assistance for maternal and child health care and family planning. UNFPA support helped many African countries with their first censuses.

Almost every country in **Latin America and the Caribbean** has made impressive progress over the last 40 years in family health care and other programmes, which has contributed to a substantial rise in life expectancy. The growth of urban areas in mega-cities such as Sao Paolo and Mexico City and of squatter populations is a critical problem, as is childbearing among teenagers and illegal abortion. Fertility is falling rapidly in many Latin American countries, but family planning programmes still lag behind the demand for modern services.

In the **Middle East and North Africa**, migration and urban growth are of great concern. High fertility is seen as a health hazard to mothers and children. The region has a high incidence of maternal mortality, estimates of which range from 340-500 per 100,000 live births, and high population growth rates, which average about 2.7 per cent. Several countries are concerned about rapid population growth and have been successful in improving maternal and child health and spreading the use of modern family planning.

UNICEF/D. Bregnard

CAN IT BE DONE?

In 1960, only 9 per cent of couples in developing countries used family planning; now over half do.

- If all women were able to have only **the number of children they wanted**, there would be 35 per cent fewer births in Latin America, 33 per cent in Asia and 27 per cent in Africa. As a result, the average number of children born to each woman in the world would drop from 3.45 to 3.1 by the year 2000. This would keep the world's population well on course to stabilization.

For more information about UNFPA and its programmes, please contact:

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In 1987, UNFPA's name was changed from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the United Nations Population Fund. The acronym UNFPA was retained.

WORLD POPULATION (in billions)
However, if fertility declines more slowly than expected, the world might be headed for a total of 12 billion or even more.
2150
2160
2170
2180

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